

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Indochina	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Viet Minh Cooperation and Work-Exchange Organizations	DATE DISTR.	7 May 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Viet Minh Cooperation and Work Exchange Organizations (To Hop Cong Doi Cong) are called Trinh Xuan Bai nets in honor of a peasant from Tho Xuan district, Thanh Hoa, who was named a "National Work Hero" at a meeting for the discussion of methods to increase agricultural production held in early 1950. This is in line with the Viet Minh attempt to create a new hierarchy based on the working class. 25X1
2. These organizations made their appearance in the villages in the early part of 1950 when the Viet Minh government began to apply agrarian reforms based on the decree of July 1947, which provided fairly moderate measures for the decrease of rents and interest rates as well as for the redistribution of land. However, the Cooperation and Work Exchange organizations were organized on the initiative of the party rather than on governmental decree.
3. These organizations were originally private, providing their members with mutual assistance, exchange of work, and exploitation of abandoned land. They also took the form of farmers' syndicates in their struggles against landlords. These struggles - usually peaceful - are now one of the main political goals of these organizations.
4. Middle class partisans reacted by forming their own "cooperation and work-exchange organizations" with poor young people who still remained faithful to them. They were formed under the guise of Catholic and Buddhist religious organizations. Being unable to work all of their own property, the rich landowners shared their land with their partisans.
5. The organizations at present enhance the importance of the Nong Hoi, (or Farmers' Group). All the diverse popular troops, especially the Thanh Nien or Youth Group, and the Phu Nu, or Women's Group are subordinate to the Nong Hoi, which is now the most important organism in the "deliberate launching of the struggle of the masses for agricultural reforms".

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 Comment. The Cooperation and Work-Exchange Organizations have had a great practical value in the economy of labor.

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